Society of the
National Library for the Blind
Tel. 814907 - Shu'fat
Jerusalem

جمعية
المكتبة الاهلية للمكفوفين
تلفون ٨١٤٩٠٧ ـ شعفاط
القدس

Established in Jerusalem in 1962 by SUBHI T. DAJJANI

تأسست سنة ١٩٦٢ بالقدس ومؤسسها صبحي طاهر الدجاني

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امينة السر : الآنسة هيلانه حبيب شحاده

Date التاريخ ..... No. الرقم

A REPORT ON FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND FOR THE YEAR 1980 .

GENERAL

Once again we find ourselves towards the end of another year and preparing for the begining of a new one. Again I have the privilege of sending out this report, in acknowledgement of God's goodness to us, and an opportunity for expressing out profound gratitude to all the friends and supporters of this Society. Without their backing and their financial support none of the following activities could have been accomplished.

Throughout the past year, our services have continued to flourish, and the number of our benefiting individuals resinding in their own homes is increasing considerably. So far the needs of one hundred such persons are being met. We also supply the residents of eight Institutions for the Blind with Braille, and recorded Literature.

BOOK PRODUCTION AND THE LOANING OF BOOKS .

We are pleased to inform you that section of our services has continued to thrive. Several new additions of Arabic Braille Literature have been added to the main Library, making a total of eight hundred and twenty titles, falling in two thousand four hundred and fifty volumes. The number of books in foreign languages has risen to nine hundred and ninety-six titles, falling in four thousand nine hundred and eighty volumes. In the children's Library there are one hundred and sixty-five books, whereas the number of recorded books has risen to one hundred, two hundred and fifty Braille books, falling in seven hundred and fifty volumes. Fifteen recorded books, falling in one hundred and fifty tapes, have been given out on loan in the course of the year. One hundred and fifty volumes of Arabic Braille Literature have also been donated to the various Schools, Institutions,and individuals.

THE PROVISION OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES .

This Society has not failed in its endeavours to secure for the Blind of the Area the necessary aids and appliances, in spite of the many problems and great

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expense encountered in clearing the equipment out of customs. Although they have all been donated to us by Christoffel-Blinden-Mission, we have yet had to pay about eight hundred pounds Sterling duty. However, to deny our Blind this kind of service because of the additional cost, is out of the question, particularly as it is only through the use of such aids and appliances they can hope to lead a resonably full and independent life. Therefore we feel that we have an obligation to resume this vital task that we have undertaken. Accordin_ to our statistics for the year 1980, we have given out on loan two typewriters, eight Braillers, two Stainsby and six Perkins, five Tape Recorders. We have also paid the price for two Tape recorders to the students Mahmood Harb, and Riad Silakhi from Gaza. We have also donated twenty-one Pocket Slates, four Desk Slates, one Braille Watch for men, one Alarm Clock and one Tape Recorder. As for the items listed below, they have all been sold at a nominal price:- Watches eleven, Alarm Clocks six, Canes ten, Desk Slates thirty, Pocket Slates twelve, Stylus eighty, Perkins keys seven, Arithmetic Types one thousand one hundred, Braille Paper one hundred and fifty klilo grams, Needle Threaders thirty-one, Sewing Needls sixteen Packets, Meters one, Dominoes five, Draughts three, Chess four and Playing-cards eight.

MISCELLANEOUS

We are pleased to inform you that our two students, Miss Aisheh Rushdi and Mr. Yousef Al-kuidor have been admitted to the African Center for Research and training Staff in Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind. All expenses are being met by the Centre. They left Amman fo Tunisian on September the eleventh. We wish them every success and happines there. However, their travelling expenses Other additional expenses were covered by this Society. This has so far amounted to three hundred Jordanian Dinars, the euivalent of four hunired pounds Sterling. Four other students have been admitted to the Evangelical School for the Blind, Beirut for a six months course in Telephony training, starting in January 1981. The expenses for the course will be mainly covered by Bible Land's Society. This course has been delayed because of the difficulties of comunications.

Throgh the Grace of God and the generosity of our good friends we were able to hold the Second Cultural Contest on May the second at the Y.M.C.A. East Jerusalem. This year's contest was not merely confined to Braille Reading but we had other items on the programme as well such as competitions in essay-writing and the recitation of famous verses. After the refreshments were served, prizes for all participants were distributed by the President of the Society, Mr. A.Z. Muesaibeh. We are all looking forwarde for another happy social gathering next year. The expenses of the event amounted to three hundred pounds Sterling and that includes

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the cost of prizes which have mainly been donated by Christoffel-Blinden-Mission.

Indeed we may justifiably regard the first Rehabilitation one month's Summer Course as the high light of our activities for the year 1980. This was held in Bible Lands Property, Helen Keller House, Beithanina Jerusalem. The course had been planned to coincide with the centenial birth of Miss Helen Keller, the miracle of the twentieth century, who is our best example of perseverance and good will. Sixteen Blind students were admitted to the course. Age ranged from sixteen to thiety. They came from all parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The aim of the course was to train these young men and women in some important skills that will help them increase their independence, so paving the road for their employment. Three out of four British instructors were kindly spared from the R. N.I.B. Clifton Spinney, Nothingham, England to teach Mobility, Homercrafts, and Handicrafts. For the remaining subjects taught on the course, which included Arabic and English typewriting, Handwriting, Braille and Music, we sought the help and employment of local specialists. The cost of running such a course was enormous, amounting to three thousand Pounds Sterling. We are therefor extremely grateful to Bible Land's Society for covering most of the expenses and for the contribution of three thousand Deusche Maks that we received from Christoffel-Blinden-Mission. The course proved to be most beneficial, and we were particularly pleased to help two newly-Blind young men from Gaza to regain confidence as well as a hope and desire to live. However, this first attempt clearly revealed to us that the needs for running such courses are immense. Many of our students , even after completing their secondary education, are lost and bewildered and lacking in independence. So God willing we hope to be able to run such a course as this, whenever opprtunitées premit, and perhaps think about establishing a permanent set up,. We would then be able to ensure a follow up so enabling us to guarantee that what they have been taught well are fully executed.

Unfortunatly, this year had its sad side also. With profound grief and much regret we announce the death of Dr.M. Dajani at the age of seventy-three which occurred on November the second 1980. Afounder and great supporter of his brother Mr.S. Dajani, the owner of the idea. They worked closely toghether in Establishing this Society. Since his brother's death five years ago, he took the responsiblities of vice President and Treasurer. Throughout his service he showed much enthusiasm, a keen interest in the affairs of the Blind and for the promotion of this Society, which he loved until his dying day. He is a great loss to us all. His memory and good deeds will remain with us forever.

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His last public function was the opening the first Rehabilitation Summer Course, which he performed with pride, and degnity.

We are also sorry to inform you that Mr.J.E. Hashweh, another founder of thie Society, who occupied the Office of Secretary during the years 1975 and 1976, ie now seriously ill. He will no longer be able to share with us our activities. and his long experience, valuable advice will be greatly missed.

It appears that the hopes we have cherished for many of being able to release our confiscated piece of land have unfortunately vanished. All these years we have had nothing except false promises. Our only remaining hope is that we turn our eyes to God, and ask him to help us find the ways and means of securing a buliding for housing this establishment. As an immediate solution some of the books that are not very much on demand will have to be stored else where, in order to make room for our new additions, until we know the will of God. For we firmly believe, that "He will supply all our needs."

Thank you once again for your support and genuine interest.

HELENA SHEHADEH.
Executive Secretary.

هيلانة شحادة
HELENA SHEHADEH

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